(c) whether any inquiry into-such an over booking by Air India has been made by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what measures have been taken by Government to streamline the booking procedure to avoid such a situation putting the passengers into unnecessary inconvenience and trouble?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This was a cascading effect of the cancellation of flight AI-129 of 18-02-2000 on the Bombay-Delhi-London-Chicago route due to the Commander reporting sick at the last minute and no substitute being available.

(c) to (e) In a number of cases problems have been caused due to irresponsible acts of the pilots besides some cases of overbookings which is an industry practice. The passengers off-loaded are accommodated in subsequent flight. This matter was also discussed in the last meeting of Parliamentary Consultative Committee held on 29/30 March, 2000. The members of the Committee deplored the indiscipline in Air India pilots and advised strong action. Government is seized of the matter. .

Resumption of flights to Kathmandu

4563. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU:

SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed to resume flights to Kathmandu if Nepal Government agreed to the proposal of Indian Airlines staff checking passengers on the tarmac before they entered the aircraft;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Nepal Government to this proposal; and

(c) whether Government will exercise utmost caution before resuming flights to Kathmandu because of hijacking of IA IC-814?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Government have noted the steps taken by the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal to strengthen security for foreign airlines operating to/from Kathmandu. Our experts have assessed these positively and feel that this would meet the requirement of our airline. In view of this, it has been decided to resume Indian Airlines flights to Nepal as soon as the ground arrangements have been put in place.

Contract to Midos for carrying Haj Pilgrims

4564. SHRI SHIBU SOREN:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have awarded contract to UK based Midos for carrying Haj Pilgrims;

(b) whether Government are facing serious charge of kickbacks in such deal;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the terms and conditions laid down in awarding contract to UK based Midos?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, press reports have appeared on this issue. The allegations are being looked into.

(d) The terms & conditions laid down in the Agreement made on 19.1.2000 are (i) The company agrees to provide 3 B747 and 3 LOll type of aircraft; (ii) The company shall position the aircraft at the disposal of Air India, failing which Air India shall have the option to terminate the agreement; (iii) The company agrees to carry a minimum of 70,000 pilgrims; (iv) The company will be responsible to bear all costs, expenses and losses suffered by Air India for delay on the part of company in operating flights and (v) The company agree to charge USD 523 per pilgrim on the basis of ACMI + Fuel (fuel prices will be determined on the basis of actual wighted average fuel price).